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VACATION · DAYS IN · THE · ROUTT NATIONAL · FOREST



FISHERMAN'S LUCK

VACATION DAYS IN THE ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

A COLORADO PLAYGROUND.

WHEN you step down from the train or alight from your automobile in Routt County, Colo., the high mountains before you lie within the Routt National Forest. To the sportsman, the lover of nature, the camper, and the mountain climber a visit to the Routt Forest should prove a real delight. Charming camp sites, splendid mountains, little-known lakes wherein the lively trout bids defiance to the angler, await the summer visitor. No restrictions are placed on the tourist, who may camp on Government land wherever he pleases. In his hunting and fishing the only restrictions are the reasonable requirements of the Colorado game laws. To make the visitor's stay pleasant and profitable, the Forest officers will gladly furnish such information and assistance as they can.

The Routt National Forest, which has an area of 936,100 acres, is a third larger than the State of Rhode Island. It extends southward from the Wyoming line along the crest of the Continental Divide and the Gore Range for a distance of 65 miles. The principal headwaters of the North Platte River, flowing through North Park, rise in the springs and alpine lakes within its boundaries. The Grand River, draining Middle Park, skirts its southeast corner, thence along its southern boundary and on through the shadowy depths of the famous Gore Canyon. On the west side of the Divide, that forms the backbone of the Forest, tributaries of the Little Snake and Yampa Rivers gather their flow from its timbered watersheds.

The Routt Forest is the source of the chief streams in northwestern Colorado, upon which the agricultural valleys depend for water for irrigation. The lower portions of the great western range for live stock now are being turned rapidly into farms. During the summer when the pastures are in

crops the cattle and sheep must look to the mountains for their forage. On the Routt Forest some 50,000 cattle and horses and 100,000 sheep are grazed each year.

CAMPING GROUNDS.

Charming camp sites abound in the Forest, and splendid fishing can be had in most of the streams and lakes.

Delightful opportunities for camping are found in the southern part of the Forest on Rock Creek and its tributaries. A series of mountain parks here extend east and west across the slopes of the Gore Range, over which runs the old Denver-Routt County stage road at Gore Pass. Virgin pines and spruces surround these parks, providing a welcome shelter. Good native-trout fishing is always found in Rock and Blacktail Creeks. Plenty of feed for horses and abundant fuel are to be had. This region can be reached by wagon or automobile from Yampa, 25 miles to the west, or by wagon from Kremmling on the east, 15 miles away.

Especially attractive camp sites are found along the Rabbit Ears Pass Road, a mountain automobile highway recently completed by the Forest Service. The road crosses the Continental Divide at an elevation of a little more than 9,000 feet. Once on top of the range, it traverses a rolling, lofty plateau, partly timbered. Walton Creek, with several forks, winds through this region and affords good trout fishing. On the east side, where the upland breaks off abruptly toward Middle and North Parks, are the headwaters of Muddy Creek and Little Grizzly, the former flowing into the Grand and the latter into the North Platte River. Beautiful wild flowers, especially columbine, the Colorado State flower, carpet this portion of the range from June to September.

The forks of Elk River in Hinman and Diamond Parks afford a series of attractive camp sites very different in character from those of the lofty sky lands of Rock Creek and the Rabbit Ears. Elk River is in the mountains, not on them. For 20 miles from the Forest boundary this stream flows down a narrow, steep-walled valley, slopes of which are heavily clothed with spruce and pine. Aspen-sheltered bottom land, filled with grass and sagebrush,



FISH CREEK FALLS.

supplies ideal camp spots for man and beast. Elk River is stocked yearly with rainbow, eastern brook, and native trout, and the fishing is of the best. Five miles upstream from Hinman Park the river valley divides, and the Middle and North Forks of the Elk continue back to their headwaters in mountain lakes amidst the spires of the well-named Sawtooth Range. Diamond Park lies on the North Fork at the very foot of these mountains, and the view from it is cut off abruptly by frowning cliffs.

Days spent on Elk River never will be dull. South, Middle, and North Fork waters teem with trout; and attractive waterfalls, rock-rimmed pools, and cascades invite the nature lover. Rugged mountain peaks shelter many an alpine lake of deepest blue, and the summer home of elk, deer, bear, and mountain sheep is all around. As far as the forks, Elk River is ascended by a road suitable for automobiles, and on to Diamond Park the trip is continued over a fair wagon road. From the forks a logging road traverses the Middle Fork bottom to Gold Creek, and a good bridle trail completes the ascent to the top of the Continental Divide.

Hahns Peak Basin lies in the geographical center of the Forest. At a northeast point on the basin's rim is Hahns Peak, a solitary and striking bare-topped cone. The basin is perhaps 4 miles across; a rolling, grassy expanse, cut into here and there by fingers of timber. Several willow-bordered streams descend from its ring of hills and each affords excellent trout fishing. The camper can easily select a delightful site for his tent, as near or as remote from the little mining center of Hahns Peak as he may desire, and at the same time be within easy reach of daily mail and the telephone. Fishing and bird shooting in season always are good.

The lake country of the Routt Forest lies on top of the Continental Divide at an average elevation of 10,000 feet. Although nearly three-fourths of a mile higher than the ranch lands below, the Divide here is so broad-backed and rolling—varying in width from 2 to 5 miles—that the visitor at times forgets that this summer playground is at the very “top of the world.” Twenty or more lakes lie shimmering in the folds of the wooded plateau. Most of them are rock bound, and the great spruce trees of the forest crowd



HAHNS PEAK.

their margins. Several contain rocky islets, in whose lee lily pads at float accentuate the brooding stillness of a midsummer's day. To the camper the situation is ideal. Each lake has an individuality of its own. Grass, dry fuel wood, and protecting shelter under great boughs supply the possibilities for bodily comfort. All of the lakes have been stocked with rainbow, eastern brook, or native trout.

SCENERY AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

Many localities in the Forest make their own special appeal to the traveler and camper. From all of them impressive views of mountain and canyon may be had, and good fishing is easily reached. Slater Park, California Park, Whiskey Park, Red Canyon, and Clover Valley are interesting places in the heart of the summer stock range, where beautiful scenery, abundant fuel, and the nearness of good trout streams afford splendid opportunities for camping, somewhat remote from the more popular spots.

The highest mountain in the Forest is Mount Zirkel, 12,220 feet above sea level. Its rocky pinnacle has never yet been scaled. A neighboring dome, a few miles to the north on the boundary between the Routt and the

Hayden Forests, is called Red Elephant from the color of its rocks and its impressively large bulk. The Sawtooth Range is the home of the mountain sheep, which, especially in the spring, can often be seen with their lambs climbing the almost sheer rock walls.

Mount Zirkel and the Sawtooth stand on the Continental Divide at the head of Elk River and the North Fork of the North Platte. Fifteen miles south along the same Divide, Mount Ethel, 11,940 feet, can be ascended easily on horseback from its surrounding high plateau, and the extended view of mountains and plains, of canyons and alpine lakes, that there meets the eye of the visitor can not be surpassed in the country. The base of Mount Zirkel and the Sawtooth country can be reached by automobile and wagon from the west, or through North Park over excellent natural gravel roads. The actual climbing and exploration of this range must, however, be done on horseback or on foot.

Mount Ethel is visited best on horseback, and with a camp outfit and pack horse. The route from Steamboat Springs lies up the old State road, and northward along the Divide, a distance of 34 miles; or the mountain can be reached in the course of a circle tour up Elk River by wagon road to the foot of Gold Creek, thence ascending to the top of the range over the Forest Service trail. A somewhat shorter circle can be made by leaving the Elk River road at Big Creek and following the Government trail which ascends Roaring Fork and traverses Swamp Park and Jack Rabbit Park.

A rocky peak of peculiar form and of moderate elevation, overlooking North and Middle Parks and the broad table-land of the Continental Divide, lies north of the Government-built Rabbit Ears Road. The Rabbit Ears can be reached by automobile, 20 miles from Steamboat Springs and 35 miles from Kremmling. The actual ascent requires a walk over a good trail of about 2½ miles from the road.

The Bears Ears are formed by two very large dome-shaped rocks on the crest of the Elkhead Range—the Divide separating the waters of the Little Snake and Yampa Rivers. The ascent to both peaks is exhilarating, requiring about two hours each. Excellent views of the White River Plateau to the south and the Sierra Madre Mountains and Snake River Valley to the north are obtainable.



LAKE MARGUERITE, A POPULAR FISHING WATER IN THE ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST.

Turning northward from the Bears Ears, a horseback ride of 5 miles down through the aspens and long bunch grass brings the visitor to Slater Falls, where Slater Creek, encountering soft strata, has gradually gnawed out a canyon and falls 60 feet to find its new level. The country near the falls provides excellent camp grounds, and the fishing in Slater Creek below the falls is very good.

Hahns Peak, 28 miles from Steamboat Springs, is 10,824 feet high, and because of its isolated position affords an unusually good view of all of the northern part of the Forest. It is of definite and sharply conical form, so steep that except for a long ridge on the northwest side the upper one-third of the mountain is slide rock. Prospectors for valuable minerals have literally riddled the cone with their tunnels, and one, known as the "Ice Cave," is festooned with jewel-like frost crystals throughout the summer.

The Forest Service utilizes the summit of Hahns Peak as a fire-lookout station. A stone shelter cabin has been built and is equipped with maps, range finder, telephone, binoculars, and other necessary instruments for the prompt detecting and locating of forest fires. An excellent trail, passable to saddle horses, leads from the Royal Flush Mine to the top of the mountain.

The Forest Service maintains a fireguard on the mountain during dry periods from June to November. Visitors are always welcome at this station.

FIRE PROTECTION AND CAMP SANITATION.

The Hahns Peak lookout forms the nucleus of the fire-protection organization of the Routt Forest. Every Forest officer gives fire detection and suppression precedence over all other work during the hazardous periods of the year. This system has resulted in reducing the number of fires and holding the damage to timber at a very nominal figure.

The burned areas you see give mute evidence of the destructiveness of fire. The greatest number of fires are caused by human agencies, and visitors to the Routt National Forest can help to protect the public property by being careful with fire when in the woods. You are also urged to cooperate with the Forest officers by reporting promptly any fire you may see. If you can extinguish it unaided, prompt action on your part will be appreciated greatly. Telephones are located at various points throughout the Forest, and these may be used for reporting fires, or you may find it more convenient to notify the nearest ranger personally. Remember, "minutes count" in reporting forest fires.

In order that camp grounds may prove inviting and attractive, it is necessary to keep them clean. Tin cans and camp refuse should be buried, while discarded clothing, papers, and other inflammable material should be burned. Your cooperation in preventing and reporting fires and in cleaning up your camp grounds before leaving is solicited.

PACK AND OUTING TRIPS.

Up the Morrison Creek Road to Silver Creek, by Government blazed trail up Silver Creek to Buffalo Park, beautiful cascades, excellent trout fishing, and charming bits of rugged mountainous country will be encountered.

Ascend Service Creek by logging road to camps of the Sarvis Timber Co., where a good example of logging in the Rocky Mountains may be seen. Continuing by Government trail, the timbered country at the head of the forks of Service Creek may be traversed easily and Buffalo Park attained. From the east end of this park it is about 10 miles north to the foot of the Rabbit Ears Road, and 8 miles south to the summit of Gore Pass. From

Gore Pass, a continuation of the trip westward across the Gore Range brings one to Blacktail, Rock Creek, and Toponas Creek at the head of Egeria Park. From the foot of the Rabbit Ears it is 25 miles over a wonderful scenic highway to Yampa River and Steamboat Springs.

Crossing the Divide from Steamboat Springs on the Buffalo Pass Road, a rather circuitous route among the ranches of North Park takes one northward to the mouth of Red Canyon, a large opening in the eastern flank of Mount Ethel. Towering red cliffs shut in the canyon on all sides, forming a favorite camping and community picnic spot. The total distance from town is approximately 34 miles. The entire trip can be made in automobile, although the route necessarily is longer, lacking the short cuts across ranches that may be taken on saddle horse.

Only 3 miles from Steamboat Springs the falls of Fish Creek can be visited by automobile or on foot. In spring a great volume of water descends to the Bear River Valley from the broad plateau of the Continental Divide with a roar that can be heard for half a mile. Through the drought of mid-summer, however, Fish Creek shrivels, until the torrent of a few months before becomes a slender ribbon of silver.

Pleasurable journeys on saddle horse in the Routt Forest are not limited, however, to any brief list of trips. Turn east, west, north, or south, and you can strike one of the mountain roads and branch off on a Forest Service built and posted trail. Many beautiful tours can be taken with or without guides. The fishing is good in most of the streams. Forest officers will be glad to suggest routes and trips that should appeal to you.

SUMMER HOME SITES.

To more people each year a passing visit to the Routt Forest is not enough. Many will wish to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by the act of Congress of March 4, 1915, which provides for the leasing of National Forest lands for summer-home purposes. The Routt Forest contains several localities which will be found especially attractive as sites for comfortable, permanent summer homes. No lots have yet been surveyed, but applications will be acted upon promptly.

Hinman Park, 5 miles east of the excellent Steamboat Springs-Hahns Peak county road, offers a variety of exposures on the north banks of Elk



BEAR CREEK VALLEY FROM THE RABBIT EARS PASS ROAD.

River. The park now is accessible by automobile or wagon from the county road at "Elk River bridge" by a new road up the river. The park itself is an open flat several miles in extent on the first mesa above the river and already contains several small homestead ranches. Upstream the valley narrows to a canyon, through which the river falls in a foaming cascade of about 50 feet. The snow banks of the Continental Divide, from which Elk River springs, are seen through the vista of the canyon. Steamboat Springs and the railroad are 24 miles distant by good road.

Excellent sites for summer homes may be found along the Rabbit Ears Pass Road, recently completed by the Forest Service. The summit of the range here is a rolling plateau 7 miles across, with an average elevation of 9,000 feet. Walton Creek, well stocked with trout, parallels the automobile road for several miles. It is about 18 miles to Steamboat Springs and 8 miles to the nearest ranch where supplies may be obtained. Long-distance and local telephone wires cross the range along the road right of way. The location is accessible by saddle horse to many fine fishing lakes and streams and to scenic points.

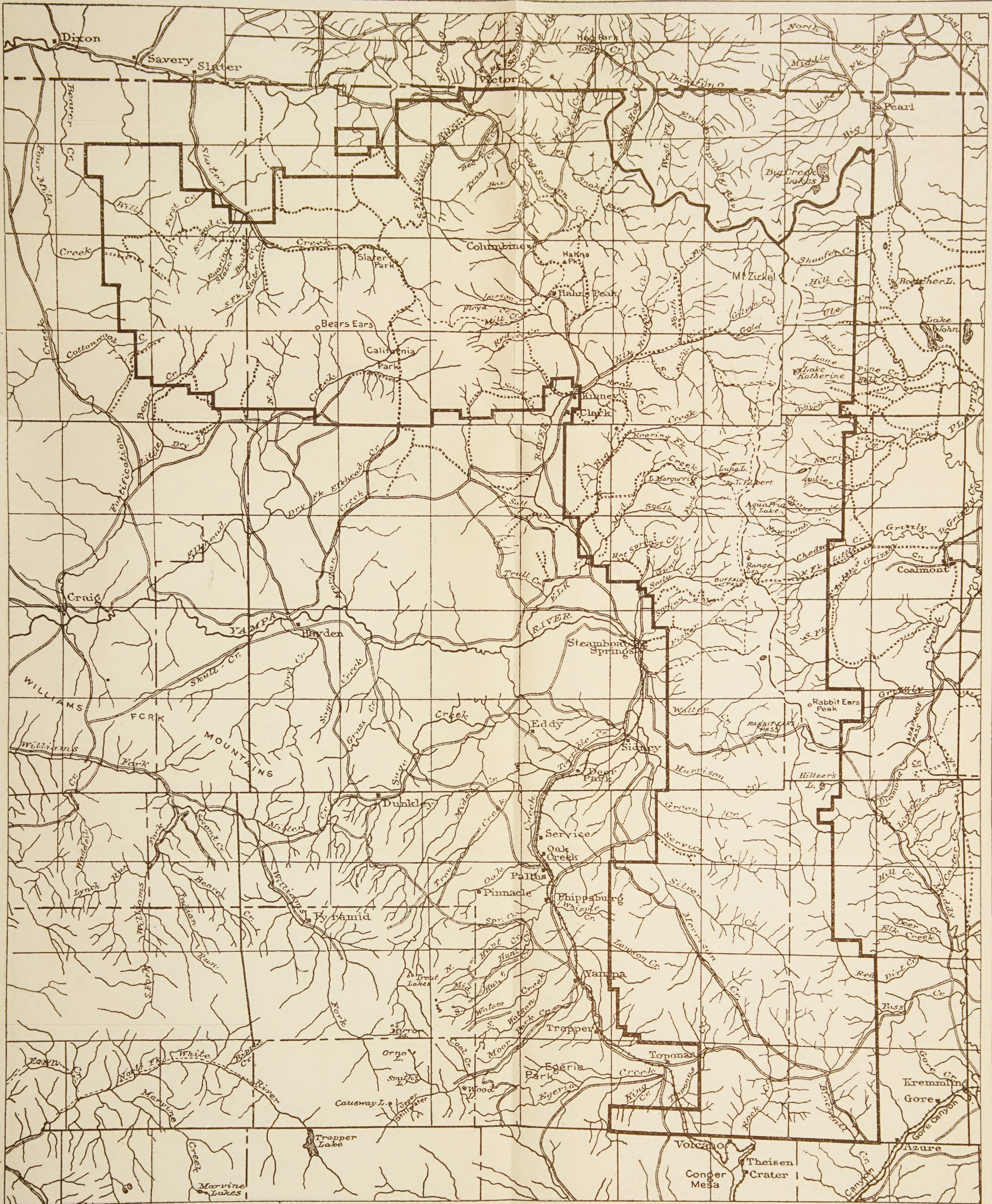
Other sites throughout the Forest may appeal to those looking for summer homes, and applications for their use for home purposes will be received gladly.

RESORTS AND OUTFITTING POINTS.

While many visitors to the Routt National Forest will wish to make their headquarters in the open, or at a permanent summer house of their own in the hills, others will find it convenient to stop in one of the several small towns which are located near the forest. Kremmling, on the Grand River in Middle Park, Yampa, on the Bear River, and Hayden, 45 miles down river, are towns on the "Moffat Road," where comfortable temporary accommodations can be had while making ready for a camping trip. The headquarters town for the Routt Forest is Steamboat Springs, the county seat. At this point are several boarding houses and a hotel, which make a specialty of supplying the wants of visitors who desire to spend several weeks or more in the vicinity. Here also are hot sulphur springs, with bath-houses and swimming pools, and a lithia and soda spring. Steamboat Springs is a central and convenient starting point for all parts of the Forest, whose west boundary is but 3 miles away. The roads throughout Routt County, with few exceptions, are satisfactory for summer automobile travel, and two good roads cross the National Forest. County roads take the visitor to within a few miles of the principal attractions of the region, and themselves afford many charming views and vistas of the mountains. Excellent fishing streams can be reached directly by automobile in a few hours' ride from town.

HOW TO REACH THE ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST.

The Routt Forest can be reached by automobile from Meeker and Rifle; from Wolcott and Glenwood Springs on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad; from Laramie by way of the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern Railway to Walden and Coalmont, and from Rawlins, Wyo., by motor to Baggs and Dixon. The most direct route is, of course, by rail, an all day's journey from Denver to Steamboat Springs over the Denver and Salt Lake Railroad (Moffat Road). Practically the same route can also be covered in 10 hours' time by automobile, the trip crossing Lookout Mountain, the Denver Mountain Parks, Berthoud Pass, Middle Park, and the Rabbit Ears Range.



MAP OF THE ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST.

The solid black line represents the forest boundary. Distance between solid light lines (township boundaries) represents six miles.

